

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6666

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1485

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, IC, US

SUBJECT: NEW STIRRINGS FROM IDF OPPONENTS

1. WITH KICKOFF OF ICELAND'S POLITICAL SEASON, OPPONENTS OF US MILITARY

PRESENCE IN COUNTRY HAVE BEGUN NEW ROUND OF ACTIVITIES.

2. SO-CALLED MILITARY STATION OPPONENTS ORGANIZATION, FORMED LAST YEAR, HAS SCHEDULED SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR OCTOBER 16-17.

THIS GATHERING HAS BEEN PRECEDED BY SERIES OF LOCAL MEETINGS AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AROUND COUNTRY.

3. ORGANIZATION IS HEADED BY SEVERAL PROMINENT IDF FOES, MOSTLY FROM COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE, WHO FOUNDED GROUP MAINLY AS RALLYING POINT FOR LIKE-MINDED ICELANDERS AT TIME WHEN DEFENSE ISSUE HAD LARGELY FADED FROM PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER SIGNING OF 1974 ICELAND-US MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. WITH EXCEPTION OF INVOLVEMENT

IN ONE OR TWO ANTI-BASE ACTIVITIES IN PAST YEAR, GROUP DROPPED OUT OF

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SIGHT AFTER POORLY ATTENDED FIRST NATIONAL MEETING LAST OCTOBER.

4. ORGANIZATION MAY HOPE TO CAPITALIZE THIS YEAR ON ANTI-IDF/NATO FEELINGS LEFT OVER FROM COD WAR, ALTHOUGH ATTENDANCE AT PRE-LIMINARY LOCAL MEETINGS - EVEN BY SPONSORS' ESTIMATES - HAS NOT BEEN IMPRESSIVE.

5. MEANWHILE, PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN, IN OCTOBER 5 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "30-YEAR WAR," RECALLED "DARK DAY" IN 1946 WHEN ALTHING APPROVED CONTINUED USE OF KEFLAVIK AIRPORT BY US. THAT EVENT, PAPER SAID, ENDED BRIEF, BRIGHT PERIOD OF ICELAND'S TRUE INDEPENDENCE AND SINCE THEN, NO ICELANDER HAS BEEN THE SAME. PAPER THANKED THOSE WHO HAVE STRUGGLED TO RID COUNTRY OF IDF AND URGED CONTINUED FIGHT TO FINAL VICTORY.
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